

REMARKS

Status of Claims

Claims 1 and 3-8 are pending in the present application. Claim 2 has been cancelled and the subject matter thereof has been incorporated into claims 1 and 8. Claims 4-7 have been amended so as to be dependent on claim 1.

Specification

The title of the invention is objected to by the Examiner as being non-descriptive of the invention to which the claims are directed. Accordingly, the title has been amended to address the matters raised by the Examiner.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 2, 4, 5, 6 and 7 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Rejection of Claims 1, 3 and 8 Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a)

Claims 1, 3 and 8 are rejected by the Examiner under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being unpatentable over US patent Application Publication 2004/0165108 to Okuda in view of US patent 6,233,015 to Miller et al. for the reasons set forth in paragraph 4 of the Office Action.

This rejection is respectfully traversed. Reconsideration and withdrawal thereof are requested.

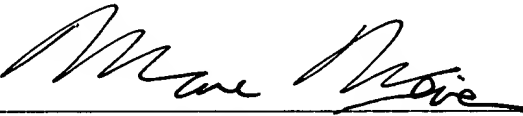
This rejection is believed to be moot in view of the amendments to claims 1 and 8. Specifically, the subject matter of claim 2 has been incorporated into claims 1 and 8. Accordingly, claims 1 and 8 are believed to be in condition for allowance. The remaining claims are allowable as they are dependent upon an allowed base claim, that is, claim 1. Thus, the rejection of claims 1, 3 and 8 should be withdrawn by the Examiner.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Marc S. Weiner (Reg. No. 32,181) at the telephone number of (703) 205-8000, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

BIRCH, STEWART, KOLASCH & BIRCH, LLP

By 
Marc S. Weiner, #32,181

P.O. Box 747

Falls Church, VA 22040-0747

(703) 205-8000

MSW/sh
0905-0268P

Attachment(s)